

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB

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The six hundred and thirty-fourth meeting of the Club was held at the Rembrandt Hotel, London, on the 19th April, 1966.

Chairman: Mr. R. S. R. Fitter

Members present: 13; Guests 4.

Mr. Peter Olney gave an illustrated talk on the feeding biology of seven species of duck during winter on the Medway estuary.

Coracias abyssinica: an unrecorded host of Indicator indicator

by SHANE A. PARKER
Received 18th November, 1965

Among the eggs collected by R. Shuel in Nigeria, and now in the collection of the British Museum (Natural History) there is a clutch of eggs which constitutes a new host record for the Black-throated Honeyguide, Indicator indicator. The data for this clutch, from Shuel's MS notebook, are as follows: "Abyssinian or Senegal Roller, Coracias abyssinica. 4 eggs, slightly incubated, taken from a Dorowah tree on the golf course at Zaria on 13 April 1934. The eggs were in a natural hole in the tree about 20 feet above ground. The hole was too small to admit the hand of the native I sent up to collect the eggs and he had to hack his way in. It is remarkable that one of the eggs in this clutch is only about half the size of the others. This egg was also hatching, however." These eggs (B.M. reg. no. 1945,3.185) measure 31.25 x 25.5, 30.5 x 24.5, 31.5 x 25 and 23.5 x 18.5 mm., and are all glossy white. The fact that the small egg was at the same stage of incubation as the other three indicates that it was not an abnormally small, thus infertile, egg of the roller. It agrees exactly with the eggs of Indicator indicator, which also occurs in the area. According to Friedmann [The Honeyguides, U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 208 (1955): 1-292, and pers. comm., 1965] no member of the Coraciidae has hitherto been reported as hostito a honeyguide.